MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : I am fully aware.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : My impression is that they are allowed to travel free.

MR. N. RAMAMURTI : Under the rules of election all the members of the Advisory Committee for the Transport Department are to meet at least once in three months to advise the head of the Department regarding the operations in various localities of the State from where they come as representatives of the Houses. For this purpose, they have to make journeys from their native places to Trivandrum, to attend the meeting and in addition to the ordinary fare that is paid for their journey from one place to another, there is an additional expenditure for stay and other purposes. Therefore, the Government were pleased to pass at the last Budget Session a certain amount of travelling allowance to those members of the Legislature who were attending these meetings constituted by the two Houses. I therefore move that the House be pleased to vote for the grant of the amount.

PRESIDENT : It was found by Government that if honourable members of the two Houses were to get only the amount paid to them as remuneration the Advisory Committees had no attendance and no quorum. More than one of those Advisory Committees had to be dissolved on account of want of quorum. The reason is that they may not get travelling allowance in addition to their usual allowances. In order to balance the two advantages it was considered useful that there should be some incentive to honourable members to come and attend the Advisory Committees. Whether the attendance of honourable members is worth paying Rs. 2,500 is a matter for the House to decide.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvalla*) : Sir, I would support the supplementary grant.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : Then I withdraw my opposition.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3,500 as a supplementary grant under Demand XVI—State Transport was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION—Rs. 50,000.

MR. B. PARAMU : Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant for B. Rs. 50,000 under Demand XVII—Education. Dr. Alagappa Chettiar of Madras has generously offered to make an endowment of Rs. 1½ lakhs, the payment being spread over a period of 3 years, for the institution of a Chair in Research in the University of Travancore. Government have undertaken to make a contribution of an equal amount for the purpose in view of the possibilities of mineral research in the State and the consequent advancement in commerce. The endowment is being made in monthly instalments by Dr. Alagappa Chettiar of Rs. 4,000 and odd. A sum of Rs. 50,000/- is required for the payment of Government contribution for the current year. I request that the honourable House will kindly agree to this grant.

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MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether this cannot wait till the end of the year when a proper provision can be made in the next yearss Budget?

PRESIDENT: Dr. Alagappa Chettiar made an offer of a lump sum grant for the purpose of instituting a Chair in Research in the University of Travancore. The direction of Research was left to the Vice Chancellor. I suggested to Dr. Alagappa Chettiar that Research might be done with regard to mineral science on which a great deal of work has to be done. He offered to give a sum between 3 to 5 lakhs in a lump. I declined to receive it because as it happened in the case of the Tamil Chair the acceptance of this lump amount may prejudice the Government. If you accept Rs. 3 lakhs the interest on it may come to Rs, 1000 a month and with that nothing could be done. When the Government accepted a sum of Rs. one lakh and a half of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar for instituting Tamil Research it was found that no Research could be conducted. So Government had to give another lakh and a half to supplement Dr. Alagappa Chettiar's contribution for the purpose of starting Tamil Research. So this Government said that they did not want any lump sum. But so long as he has agreed to make a monthly payment spread over a period of 3 years, this Government too have agreed to contribute an equal sum for the same period and hence this amount is asked for.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, whether my opposition is accepted or not I must enter my emphatic protest against items of expenditure of this kind. I would be failing in my duty to my constituency consisting of peasants if I voluntarily submit to this grant. We make demand after demand for better roads, for bridges, for the maintenance of drainage channels and for irrigation tanks being renovated. There is no money for those purposes with the Government. Every one of our demands is being practically turned down. Even if there is some allowance in the Budget for these things it is seldom expended for that particular purpose.

PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member say so? He knows very well that whatever the Public Works Advisory Committee says is carried out. He knows very well that there is no question of lapsing of such grants during recent years in P. W. D. budgets. In the face of that, what does the honourable member mean by such statements?

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Sir, I also find that many works have been excluded by the Public Works Advisory Committee.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I have also asked questions on that matter. But I have not been able to get any answers.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise on this question of Research?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am protesting against this kind of expenditure. I want to say why I protest against such things. As a representative of the people I will be failing in my duty if I do not say that these items of expenditure are extravagant when our

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elementary needs are not being carried out. I ask the Government, where is the moral justification for expenditure of this kind when our fundamental needs are turned down.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: Therefore, is it the member's opinion that we do not want the generous donation of 1½ lakhs from Dr. Alagappa Chettiar?

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: If my elementary needs, are not being carried out, what interest have I in this generous donation?

PRESIDENT: Very well.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: The irrigation tanks in my constituency are not being repaired and the maintenance of roads is not being attended to. Drainage channels are not being kept in proper condition. I want a bridge very urgently so that my ryots can go to the market place to carry on business. He has to go from one village to another. He is not able to satisfy his bare needs, the reason being want of money. When such is the condition obtaining in the rural parts I ask where is the moral justification for spending money on items of expenditure of this kind.

PRESIDENT: That is absolutely incorrect and deliberately spoken for the purpose of creating a cloud of mistrust and suspicion on Government.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I protest, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I repel that with all the vehemence at my command. The honourable member knows that the Public Works Grant is provided on a very large scale. No expenditure that is asked for under the item 'Public Works' has been withheld. No expenditure on roads or any other thing which has been asked for by the Public Works Advisory Committee has been withheld. The honourable member is making a rhetorical speech for the purpose of opposing the grant for research on mineral sands for the purpose of voicing the grievances which are absolutely groundless and he knows they are groundless.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I must continue to protest, Sir. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not speak for the people and voice forth their needs. The ryots roads in Village parts are not maintained properly and are not cart-worthy. That is a fact. But the Government refuses to know that. Further I say that if such a big amount as the amount covered by the grant for which demand is made is earmarked for the use of the peasants, it would relieve their condition. If the grant is made, will any benefit accrue to the people in the immediate future? There is no certainty that any benefit will accrue to the peasant population by this amount. That is why I protest against items of expenditure like this. If this huge amount of Rs. 50,000 is set apart for the benefit of the Villagers I am sure many of their grievances could be redressed. That is not being done. That being the case I protest against this expenditure being incurred by Government.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: May I know from the Government whether any expert has been found out to carry out the Research work referred to?

PRESIDENT: At present the British Government have sent an expert who is now in Trivandrum for the past few weeks. He is Mr. Davidson, one of the most eminent geologists in London. He has visited most of the places in Travancore and made a study of the mineral wealth of the land. He has since submitted a valuable report dealing with the various minerals available in Travancore on the basis of which new manufactories have to be brought into existence. The Government will place the matter before the Legislature for discussion.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 50,000 under Demand XVII—Education was put to vote and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—MEDICAL—Rs. 62,015.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 62,015 under Demand XXIV—Medical. The first item relates to the payment of arrears of pay allowances etc., to the menials of the Medical Department and the amount comes to Rs 56,000. I may submit in this connection—

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I would request the honourable member to give details.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The details have been given in the supplementary demand sheet. Rs. 56,000 is to be spent for the payment of arrears of pay allowances etc., to the warders, dhobies, coolies, etc., of the Medical Department.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know when those arrears accrued.

PRESIDENT: Please allow the member to finish the sentence.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: As a matter of fact no arrears have accrued at all. The Government revised the salaries of subordinates of all Departments from 1-6-1119. Those recommendations had to be given retrospective effect as was done in other depart-ments.

The other item relates to supply of timber for the construction of a payward in the District Hospital at Kottayam. On account of the free supply of timber for the construction of a payward in the District Hospital, Kottayam, for which a donation had been made by Mr. P. T. Thomas of Palampadom, a sum of Rs. 6,015 has to be met by Government. The amount provided in the current year's budget is not sufficient to cover this expenditure. Nor could the amount be made available by diversion from other items. The Conservator of Forests reported that the money due to Government in connection with the supply of timber be arranged by book adjustment. Under these circumstances the amount of Rs. 6,015 is asked for. I hope the House has understood the necessity for this grant. I request the House may be pleased to sanction the grant.

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